

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 070506Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5885
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19786

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDIP, VM, TH, LA
SUBJECT: THAI RELATIONS WITH VIET-NAM--AND LAOS

REF: VIENTIANE 1849

1. DESPITE INDICATIONS OF VIETNAMESE READINESS TO MOVE AHEAD
IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THAILAND (REFTEL), HANOI HAS
MET THAI OVERTURES TO DATE WITH POSING OF ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.
MFA INFORMS US, NEVERTHELESS, THAT BANGKOK IS READY
TO RESUME THE DIALOGUE AND HAS SO INFORMED THE VIETNAMESE.
MFA CONTACT RECALLED THAT, WHEN THAI URGED VIETNAMESE AT
THE APRIL ESCAP MEETING TO RENEW TALKS, VIETNAMESE SUDDENLY
INFORMED THE THAI THAT THE TALKS SHOULD BE HELD AT AMBASSADORIAL
LEVEL - THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT IN AUGUST, 1976, ONLY SPECIFIED
THAT VIENTIANE WOULD BE THE VENUE. WHEN BANGKOK CALLED FOR
TALKS ON OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS WITH VIET-NAM, HANOI INFORMED
BANGKOK THAT THE THAI SHOULD FIRST SETTLE CIVIL AVIATION
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ISSUES WITH VIENTIANE. ACCORD WITH LAO ON CIVIL AVIATION
HAS BEEN REACHED, BUT, MFA CAUTIONED, DESPATCH OF AN AMBASSADOR
TO VIENTIANE MIGHT NOT RPT NOT NECESSARILY RESULT IN EARLY
NORMALIZATION WITH HANOI, SINCE VIETNAMESE MAY SURFACE
ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.

2. NEVERTHELESS, MFA OFFICER RECALLED THAT THAI HAVE

SELECTED A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST IN VIENTIANE. (HE DID NOT REPORT NOT IDENTIFY HIM BY NAME, BUT HE IS SETH HERABAT, THAI AMBASSADOR TO SRI LANKA.) MFA CONTACT NOTED THAT LAOS MAY BE SLOW IN RECIPROCATING, SINCE THEY HAVE DIFFICULTY STAFFING THEIR EMBASSY IN BANGKOK. ANOTHER LAO DIPLOMAT RECENTLY SOUGHT AND RECEIVED ASYLUM, MFA SOURCE IMPLIED, IN AUSTRALIA (PROBABLY REFERENCE TO CHANSANOME WONGSAPHAY, FORMER DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, LAO MFA).

3. COMMENT: THAI CAUTION NOTWITHSTANDING, BANGKOK STILL HOPES AND IS SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC THAT RELATIONS CAN SOON BE NORMALIZED WITH HANOI AND AMBASSADORS EXCHANGED. HIGH-LIGHTING THIS HOPE, KING OF THAILAND SENT ON SEPT 2 A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO SRV PRESIDENT CONVEYING BEST WISHES FOR THE HAPPINESS OF PRESIDENT THANG AND THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.

4. FACT THAT VIETNAMESE HAVE SEEMED TO PREDICATE IMPROVEMENT OF TIES WITH BANGKOK ON STEP FORWARD IN THAI-LAO RELATIONS IS NOTEWORTHY.
O'DONOHUE

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